

REMARKS

Claims 13-17 are pending in this application. claims 13-17 have been rejected. In view of foregoing amendments and following remarks, the applicants request allowance of the application. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Palusamy et al. (U.S. Patent No 5,311,562).

Palusamy fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every feature of the claimed invention. Claim 13, for example, is amended to recite:

A thermal power plant maintenance service provision method using a ... remote maintenance device, *remote from said thermal power plant*, communicatively connected to said maintenance tool, said method comprising:

transmitting, from said maintenance tool, plant equipment data *to said remote maintenance device*;

transmitting, from said remote maintenance device, report data prepared by a maintenance service person based on the transmitted plant equipment data, *including instructions for revising a control parameter of control circuitry of said control device, to said maintenance tool*

Support for the claim amendment can be found, for example, at page 5, paragraph [0031] to page 8, paragraph [0040] and in FIGS. 1 and 3.

The Office Action asserts that the auxiliary system control unit 68 of Palusamy discloses the claimed remote maintenance device. However, there is no evidence that the auxiliary system control unit 68 of Palusamy is remote from the power plant. Rather, the auxiliary system control unit 68 merely appears to be a secondary console at the plant. (See, for example, Palusamy at column 6, lines 33-38). Palusamy does discuss sending diagnostic information over phone lines 174 to consultant or equipment vendors. (See, Palusamy at column 13, lines 48-52). However, Palusamy fails to disclose any aspect of the consultant or equipment vendor systems nor how the consultant or equipment vendor systems interact with the plant maintenance system of Palusamy. That is, there is no evidence that the consultant or equipment vendor systems include a remote

maintenance device communicatively connected to a maintenance tool at the plant, receiving plant equipment data from the maintenance tool and transmitting to the maintenance tool a report including instructions for revising a control parameter of control circuitry.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 is respectfully requested. Independent claims 14-17 patentably distinguish over the cited reference for similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

All outstanding rejections have been overcome. It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is in clear condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Although not believed necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Office is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-220-4200 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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